Transition Cambridge Food Group

Minutes from 2\textsuperscript{nd} Dec 2009. The Geldart

Present: Ivan, Rowan, Jerry, Pippa, Liz, Martin (chair), Nicola (minutes)
Apologies: Ceri, Dave Fox, Jackie, Lindsey Berends

Previous minutes: approved

\textit{Matters Arising:}

Pippa has contacted Ali who is too busy to help with any Abundance projects at the moment.

Pippa has received notes from Transition East in Diss on the 'Food and Abundance Discussion'. These are included in Appendix 1. Rowan was interested in joining the 50/50 group.

Nicola has not yet looked at the Transition East website.

Martin has organised a subscription to Sustain which will be sent to Ceri in the first instance.

\textbf{Storage Area/ succession planning}

Anna says that it is likely Transition Cambridge will shortly have some office space, at the URC church on Cherry Hinton Road. There would be room to store the display stands there. Martin has not yet spoken to the Trumpington Allotments regarding their continuing requirements. Pippa will pick up this action:

\textbf{Action Pippa} to ask Trumpington Allotment Society about their requirements for the display stands.

\textbf{Spawning off Making the Most of Food group}

This was discussed as a possibility – mainly because the food group meetings as it is are so full. A possible split would be:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Core Food Group – growing and supplying local food inc GYO, garden share,
  \item Making the Most – awareness and skill development on reducing food waste and using local seasonal produce, including food preserving and cooking skills
\end{itemize}

The split can only work if there is sufficient momentum in each group and not too much overlap in personnel (since many of us are in several groups already).

It was agreed that this might be discussed in the new year, for example at a themed social.

\textbf{Seedy Sunday}

We have updated posters for the Seedy Sunday event in January.

\textbf{Action Nicola} to send Pippa an A3 version for printing

\textbf{Action Nicola} to print A5 flyers and get them to Jerry, Rowan and Jacky for distribution
Ceri needs two or three people to help on the day but it is too far ahead for most people to commit. Pippa volunteered. Jerry needs to check his availability.

**Action Ivan** to talk to Ceri about getting publicity from Radio Cambridgeshire – if this is not already covered.

**Radio 209**

It survives for the moment. We are not able to make a significant monetary contribution but we will do our bit to raise the profile of the site.

In the December slot of Nature's Voice we hope Rowan (or someone else) will have a slot. Ivan will help Rowan work out what she would like to talk about. Possibilities include:

- no impact man showing
- seedy sunday
- GYO course

**Action Ivan and Rowan** to prepare a proposal for the slot, which we think will be 30th Dec.

**Mill Road Winter Fair**

- **Martin** will print/copy 100 bw 2-sided leaflets on the gift catalogue to give away.
- **Martin** will attempt to source some apples
- **Nicola** will bring the fruit map
- **Nicola and Rowan** will attempt to make ginger biscuits
- **Rowan** will collect stuff for the stall including leaflets from Pippa

Hot apple juice is not possible because we cannot have electrical power and are not allowed gas.

**GYO**

**Action Martin** to prepare an information sheet about GYO 2010 and a signup sheet in time for the fair, with space for a query on prior experience. Information will include:

- theory sessions from CCF
- where the practical sessions are likely to be
- commitment expected
- likely cost (e.g. £25 including book).

**Pig Business**

Rowan will show this film at her house (or failing that at Nicola's) for food group people only (invite to food group friends not the TC bulletin) on Wed 6th at 8pm (wine and nibbles but no more to save washing up). The purpose is to discuss how relevant it is to Transition and if we want to arrange a bigger showing. Also of course, we can opt to lobby our MPs in time for the campaign. However, if it is relevant for Transition it will continue to be useful beyond the campaign timescale.

**Action Ivan** to prepare a description of the film for **Nicola** to use in the invite
**Garden Share**
Has been busy and we probably have a new pairing. Jacky has been dealing with new people and Rowan has been contacting older pairings to check progress. All feedback good so far. Nicola has not yet talked with Jacky about streamlining the Garden Share procedures.

**EERA 2031 plan**
Nicola put in a response to the EERA East of England Plan to 2031 on behalf of the group. Included in Appendix 2. This has also been sent to Sian Reid, Cambridge City Councillor who expressed an interest.

**Evolution of the steering group**
The steering group has put forward a proposal whereby they will mutate into an awareness raising group and coordination will be performed by monthly meetings with 2 representatives from each group. This plan is to be discussed at a meeting on 11th January and there will be a film showing *In Transition*, not *Age of Stupid* as was said in the meeting).

We are invited to give feedback to the steering groups plans either at or before this meeting. Maggie is coordinating it.

Pippa will attend. Probably Nicola will as well.

**Christmas Party**
Will be 16th Dec at 7.30 for 8. Festive dress encouraged. We will work out bills individually.

**Action Nicola** to confirm attendance by those who have promised to attend. (NB It is up to the individuals to check if the menu is suitable for particular diets. Though we are sure about vegetarian we aren't about vegan or about gluten-free and veg combinations.)

**Action Nicola** to make final reservation with Elvis

**Appendix 1: Transition East 'Food and Abundance' Discussion**

Attended:
1. Matt Walker : Dereham
2. Conny Dunthorpe: Diss
3. Lesley Blackburn: Ely
4. Jem Seeley: Framlingham
5. Minam Burns:Stour Valley
6. Jane Chittendem:Norwich

Key Suggestions/ Outcomes

1) 50/50 Group: Get together 50 people to live on food sourced within 50 miles for a month (initially)

2) Promoting the idea of community gardens based at schools where the children and teachers could engage with the process from seed to plate

3) Foraging exchanges amongst local community and offering surplus
produce to schools and charities (see Sheffield Abundance project)

4) Encourage school children to interview their grand parents of World war 2 age re involvement in Dig for Victory and rationing,

5) Re skilling and overcoming prejudice evident in many younger people but not exclusively so that food grown locally, or foraged or leaned somehow not 'real proper food.'
An extreme example of this would be mushroom and fungi.

Appendix 2 EERA response

The text Nicola submitted is as below:

Do you think we've chosen the right growth scenarios to consider? If not, what other scenario(s) should we consider and why?
No

What other scenario(s) should we consider and why?
They are all too inflexible.

What is your preferred growth scenario and why?
Scenario 3

Please tell us why you prefer Scenario 3
Scenario 3 has the merit of linking houses to jobs, reducing the need for commuting, but it puts the cart before the horse by assuming that regeneration will create more jobs. It makes more sense to allow houses to be built only in areas where there is already unmet demand. This means linking the choice of housing sites to economic progress on an ongoing basis, not fixing everything up front before we know what will happen. Otherwise, new houses in areas not yet regenerated will be taken up by people working further afield.

Do you agree we have covered all the regional impacts of the four scenarios that have been identified? If not, what else should we have addressed?
No

What further impacts should have been considered?
Not exactly. For water policy it is necessary to take into account that climate change is likely to create a new demand for water for irrigation, as well as the increasing domestic demand from increasing population.

Do you agree that the vision and objectives of the current Plan remain suitable for the revised Plan. If not, what changes would you make and why?
No

What changes would you make to the vision and objectives and why?
We need some new objectives to improve regional resilience to peak oil. Objective (1) refers to reducing climate impact and reducing exposure to climate change. It does not refer to the need to reduce exposure to the coming constraints on oil supply (i.e. peak oil crisis) and concomitant increases in all energy prices.
For recent evidence of this, see http://www.globalwitness.org/media_library_detail.php/853/en/government_failure_to_acknowledge_the_looming_oil
http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/nov/09/peak-oil-international-energy-agency

Do you have any evidence to suggest that policies other than those identified
need to be updated or created? Yes
Please detail evidence and list which other policies you think need to be reviewed or created
To further the regional resilience to peak oil, I suggest:
(1) add an objective to adapt public transport away from dependency on oil, towards gas (if generated from renewable sources such as anaerobic digestion) or electricity.

(2) add an objective to improve the resilience of essential food supplies to oil shortages by careful planning on land use – from agriculture to allotments and household gardens – so as to maximise the potential to grow food locally, with less reliance on oil dependent road freight. 25% of all freight is food related (see The Validity of Food Miles as an Indicator of Sustainable Development Final Report produced for DEFRA July 2005 https://statistics.defra.gov.uk/esg/reports/foodmiles/execsumm.pdf) so this will reduce climate impacts too.

For a model of how to maximise local food provision, see Growing communities' Food Zones:
http://www.growingcommunities.org/background/foodzone.pdf
and their manifesto:
http://www.growingcommunities.org/background/manifesto.htm